



RANDALL  
MUSEUM  
FRIENDS

**WaterLife, A Year of Watershed Education at the Randall Museum**

Project Overview

The WaterLife program used a two-pronged approach to teach students about the San Francisco Bay Watershed and the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Each of the seven sessions of the program included hands-on science instruction combined with art projects that reinforced the science lessons. Sixty Sanchez Elementary School students participated in an after-school program at the Randall Museum. In addition to the science and art lessons each group of 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders participated in at least two field trips. Fifty-nine students from the general public, Sanchez Elementary School, and local agencies serving low-income and homeless populations participated in one week overnight or two-week day camps. The overnight camps occurred at Camp Mather, in the upper watershed near Yosemite National Park. The day campers enjoyed an in-depth program similar to the above described after-school program.

The project's original objectives were:

- A. To provide meaningful watershed experiences for up to 124 elementary school students, most of whom come from underserved communities.
- B. To teach the students about all aspects of water; its physical properties, conservation, and its effect on landscapes and habitat; and about the San Francisco Bay watershed and the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the connection between the watershed and the Sanctuary.
- C. To teach the students about their ability to affect the health of the watershed and therefore the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, and to foster environmental stewardship.
- D. To provide students with arts projects that focus on water, watersheds, and the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary to reinforce their learning.
- E. To provide over 600 Bay Area residents with watershed information and water themed, educational arts, crafts, and games at Water Day at the Randall Museum.

Evaluation Goals

Our primary interest for the first year of the program was to evaluate our effectiveness at teaching the students an entirely new vocabulary and introducing them to the watershed in after-school, day camp, and overnight camp settings.

Evaluation Methods

Our primary evaluation method was observation; we also surveyed a limited group of participants.